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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,157	02/15/2002	Fumihiko Kimura	JP20000002US1	1271

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EXAMINER

RAO, SHEELA S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2125

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/077,157

Applicant(s)

OKANO, ET AL.

Examiner

Sheela Rao

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment and response filed on 28 December 2004 has been entered and considered.
2. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination and remain pending. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended, all of which are independent claims.

Response to Amendment

3. The objection made to Figure 11 is withdrawn in light of the addition of the prior art legend.
4. The objection made to the drawings as not showing every feature of the claimed invention is withdrawn in light of the clarification and explanations given in Applicant's remarks.
5. The objection made to the title for not being descriptive is withdrawn, as a new title has been provided for the instant invention.
6. The objection made to the specification for not fully disclosing and describing the working features of the instant invention is withdrawn in light of the explanation and elucidation of the elements and features.
7. The rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement is withdrawn in light of Applicant's statements within the remarks section of the amendment. The comments and details provided by Applicant clarify and explain the terms and enablement of the features and elements of the instant invention.
8. The rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Harrison et al. (USPN 6,611,725 B1) is maintained and restated below.
9. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

10. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harrison, et al. (USPN 6,611,725 B1).

The patented invention by Harrison, et al. teaches of a "computer-implemented method and apparatus for processing a design model generated by a CAD system." In doing so, the reference discloses the use of a "generation means" which accesses stored data that details construction design and then processes the data to generate images and tags to associate the images with the model component. A drawing document or vector drawing data is also made which constitutes geometric data of the model and has tag data associated with the image. See column 2: lines 30, et seq.; Figures 1, 2A and 2B.

The computerized modeling system used by the patented invention comprises a CPU, a display device, and a storage device among other components. CAD software is used to execute the software applications of the apparatus. The software is stored within the system's storage device and allows the user to create and modify models to produce drawings and data. The display device is used to show graphical representations of the modeling design. See column 4: lines 35, et seq.; column 6: lines 47-53.

The drawing documents that are created from the three-dimensional models can be enhanced through the use of annotations added by the user using the computer based annotation tools. The association of the annotated data and the image elements provides linkage to components of the design model to better assist in designing and maintaining part information. For the reasons stated above, the limitations of the claimed invention is taught by the prior arts of record; thereby, rendering the instant claims unpatentable.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed on December 28, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the reference of prior art to Harrison et al. does not teach the "generation of a bi-directional relationship [between] information representing a correlation between design information used for a design operation, and geometry data that is obtained by the design operation." Examiner

does not understand how the addition of "bi-directional" is further limiting since "correlation" was already in the claim language. The term correlation as defined by *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* is "a relation existing between phenomena or things or between mathematical or statistical variables which tend to vary, be associated, or occur together in a way not expected on the basis of chance alone". The relation between variables or data or information is inherent in a database since the art of searching databases can be executed in either direction. When data between design information and geometry data is generated, a bi-directional relationship between the two types of data can easily be established since a correlation between the two forms of data exists. Furthermore, the disclosure by Harrison et al. teaches a hierarchical data structure that includes a parent-child relationship. Again, when carrying through a parent-child search a child-parent search can also be conducted due to their correlating nature. Hierarchical databases can be traversed and are thus inherently bi-directional. The patented disclosure by Harrison et al. clearly and fairly teaches and/or suggests the use of bi-directional relationships, thereby rendering the instant claims unpatentable. Therefore the rejection of instant claims 1-20 under 35 USC §102(e) is maintained.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheela Rao whose telephone number is (571) 272-3751. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (571) 272-3749.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

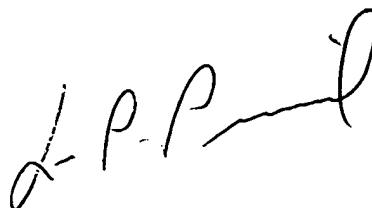
or faxed to:

(703) 305-3718 for Official Communications

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Sheela S. Rao
March 4, 2005



**LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**